House Passes Energy Bill

Ethanol and Wind Energy Provisions to Boost Kansas Economy

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today supported House passage of the first comprehensive energy package in more than ten years. Provisions in the Energy Policy Act of 2003 will work to increase the production and usage of renewable fuels, including ethanol produced in Kansas.

"Our country needs a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy supply," Moran said. "This legislation works to provide that energy supply from sources here at home while implementing energy policy changes that benefit our state's economy."

This bill will also work to increase the production of cleaner power, enhance domestic energy production and create new jobs. Specifically, the bill:

- Doubles the use of renewable fuels, such as ethanol produced from Kansas commodities, to five billion gallons per year over the next decade. It is estimated that this would increase demand for Kansas corn from 40 million bushels a year to more than 90 million, equivalent to one of every three bushels of Kansas corn.

- Takes critical steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by offering financial incentives for renewable energy companies to produce electricity from alternative fuel sources such as wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and others.

- Mandates the phase-out of MTBE, a known groundwater contaminate, over the next 10 years.

- Improves the operation and reliability of Kansas power producers by promoting investment into critical electric transmission capacity and overall efficiency.

- Reduces overall energy costs to Kansas consumers by protecting small rural utilities from the unnecessary expansion of federal regulations.

"As a nation, we must become more self-reliant in meeting our energy needs," Moran said. "Relying on foreign countries for our energy supply is not only dangerous to our economy, but could also be catastrophic to our national security. Now is the time to decrease our dependence on foreign oil and increase our ability to produce energy here at

home."

###